

The West Virginian

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SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 2, 1922.

THE COMING OF THE STRANGER.

AFTER a breathing space of a couple of months Fairmont again takes up the work of entertaining conventions. Three large gatherings are scheduled for September, each of them demanding the personal attention of large numbers of the citizens here, and each one needing especial courtesy and kindness on the part of the public generally.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, both northern and southern branches will entertain conferences during the month with but short intervals between their convening. It has been a number of years since these denominations have met here in conference, and the hundreds of ministers who will be in attendance will find a cordial welcome back again. Many of the ministers who will attend have been located in Fairmont in the years past, and have friends by the score who will be delighted to see them again.

The Daughters of the Confederacy, also, meet here this month and expect a large attendance. The local organization is busy with plans for the entertainment, and the program for the visitors.

No city can ask for better advertising than to be known as a good convention town. The name bespeaks a lively, healthy city, a comfortable city, a progressive, prosperous, and delightful place to be. This is truly Fairmont, and the number of large conventions that meet here allows no contradiction of this fact.

It is pleasant work, entertaining conventions. It is broadening, helpful work, for every convention brings to the citizens immediately in attendance, in brief word, the latest movements of the body in whose interests the convention is assembled. Entertaining convention keeps the public wits sharpened and up to date. Every convention leaves behind it a trail of inspiration, and a fresh impulse toward endeavor.

This bringing into Fairmont hundreds of strangers will scatter good impressions of a fine, wide away city to all parts of the state. A convention makes of Fairmont the stage setting for important organization business and governing plans. In the records of dozens of great organizations, and of some national ones, this city plays an important part. The minutes of the conventions record, and reflect, Fairmont. The minutes recording large attendance and successful conducting of organization affairs proclaim this point a good place, accessible to large numbers of the membership, a place persons like to visit, and where they are made comfortable and welcome.

Fairmont will have to put her best foot foremost for the resources of the city in the way of providing lodging and food will be taxed. To successfully cope with this demand the entire community must co-operate. Homes will have to be opened and dinner invitations freely distributed. The use of cars should be generously proffered and visitors should be given a lift whenever the opportunity is presented. Any inquiries should receive polite and immediate response. The little things count immeasurably in giving a stranger pleasant impressions, even if it be nothing more than smile and a cordial handshake. The people should be getting ready now for these three state gatherings, and be ready to live up to Fairmont's most enviable record of magnificently and capably entertaining the stranger while he is within our gates.

ON GUARD.

SOONER or later the magnificent water power promise of West Virginia would be bound to attract investigation and possibilities of development from outside interests. That this has come sooner than later is not surprising, in view of the stamped state has taken toward industrial expansion.

That West Virginia's turbulent mountain streams represent hydro-electric promise of remarkable

scope has long been recognized. One company spent a fortune in an undertaking on Cheat River twelve years ago, but abandoned the proposition because of lack of funds to complete it. This same project, according to announcement, is now being considered by the West Virginia Power and Transmission Company of Pittsburgh, which company is understood to be a part of the West Penn interests of Western Pennsylvania. The work contemplated would doubtless mean the completion of the great hydro-electric dam started by the Kuhn people who undertook the first development, as the Pittsburgh company applied to the Federal Power Commission in Washington to engage in hydro-electric development on the Cheat River, and its tributaries flowing through four West Virginia counties; namely Monongalia, Preston, Tucker and Randolph counties, the site of its former activities.

This move on the part of the West Virginia Power and Transmission Company is probably the beginning of a trial of strength between state interest and law and out side capitalistic interests. The incident is fair warning to the West Virginia Power Commission, created by the last state legislature, to get busy and prepare to take care of the interests of the state and its people in the dual that will almost certainly develop.

West Virginia has been robbed of her gas because the state leadership slept at its post, or acquiesced in the deals that piped this valuable natural asset beyond the reach of the people who should have benefited by it first of all. If a properly conservative program had been instituted in West Virginia laying down the law about gas production, the people in this state would have had a bountiful gas supply for generations, and the factories and plants desiring gas for fuel would have come into West Virginia to get it, bringing their interest and their capital with them.

All this is a tale that is told, but hydro-electric development in West Virginia is a new story just unfolding, and there is no thought on the part of the inhabitants of this state to see any repetition of the gas story.

Let West Virginia water power run West Virginia factories and plants, light and heat West Virginia homes, keep West Virginia transportation moving. After that, other interests can be taken care of. The movements of the West Virginia Power and Transmission Company will be of very great interest to the people of West Virginia, and the public will expect the West Virginia Power Commission to sit very tightly on the particular lid it was appointed to hold down.

THE WEST VIRGINIAN remarked last week the determination of the city authorities to drive out illegitimate taxi business, and it is certainly a satisfaction to observe the authorities are in earnest about carrying out their resolution.

The acting mayor handed out the limit to one taxi driver who was undeniably implicated in a case of loitering, and observed afterward that the new city ordinance which will be acted upon at the next meeting of the board of city directors should provide a stiffer fine and a jail sentence for such cases hereafter. If the mayor had had proper authority he would undoubtedly have sent the taxi driver to jail for his share in the offense for which a couple were arrested on Hill Crest.

There are a number of taxis in the city who engage in the vilest kind of traffic. The drivers stand around, notably on Madison street and solicit coupons for patronage. This business has been carried on for a long time, and the line up around the Watson Hotel corner is a disgrace to any city. It is certainly a matter for congratulation that the city authorities will enact an ordinance covering this offense and will enforce it strongly. There may be a number of taxi drivers go out of business on account of this, but the city will be endlessly better off without their presence.

The horse hide is about ready for retirement, while the pig skin is being groomed for fall encounters. Football used to be a secondary interest to that of baseball in the field of sports, but its doubtful if any baseball game pulled off during the season now closing, can equal the gate receipts at some of the great football battles staged between favorite colleges later on.

The climb in the wages of common labor is going to strike contractors pretty hard. Numbers of contracts were signed when labor was paid very much less than at present. Some contractors also have been slow in their work expecting to employ men even cheaper than the wages they have been paying. These contractors are doubly out of luck.

Squirrels had better watch their step now that the hunting season is on. All the squirrels in the woods will not be wearing grey fur either, so that individuals who go for a stroll among the autumn leaves had better take precautions against those who shoot first and think afterward.

State Superintendent of Schools Ford intimated to a group of teachers that service was needed in the public schools more than style. Of course he is dead right if it came to an issue, but Marion County teachers have always been able to present both. The institute beginning today musters as presentable, smart an aggregation of young women as could be assembled anywhere, but because they are modern in appearance is no sign they are lacking in ability and brains. They have both, and the success of the schools in this county is ample proof of this statement.

"You must be heavy then."
"Does he like heavy guys?"
"I'll say. Stansbury has to add about twenty-five pounds on all the candidates in his press notices to even get Spears to read the stuff."
"Is that so?"
"Yes. By the way, I was talking football to Spears the other day."
"What did he say?"
"Nothing. I said I was talking football to him. I didn't say he was talking football to me."
"See?"
"Spears never talks football to anybody except the players, and I think that a good idea, because it keeps your conversation from being exploited."
"What's exploited mean?"
"I don't know, but it's all right, as I heard 'Chick' Wilshire use it and he is a member of the Kiwanis Club."
"Many an earnest thought it said in 'Jest' Maid," said Cunningham, "and I think we should form some sort of a football organization here on the suggestion of Ira Smith about a Coaches Emeritus Club. We could form a Gridiron Club and let everybody that is interested in high school and college football join. We could make a good permanent organization with reasonable dues and have a big blowout once or twice a year."
"I am willing," said the Maid.
"I would be willing to be temporary chairman of the organization committee," said Cunningham.
"That's fine. I'll speak to Earl Smith the first time I see him and get him lined up on the proposition. And then we'll get Tom Connell to send out the letters on the C. of C. letterheads and save expenses."
"Great!" said Cunningham.
"In the meantime I'll tell everybody who is interested in the matter to drop you a letter, and if you get enough you can call a meeting a few nights before the Wesleyan game."

THE MAID ON THE COURTHOUSE
"I got 'em," said "Tiny" Cunningham to the Maid on the Courthouse this morning.
"Got what?" said the Maid, measles or chicken pox or whooping cough?
"No, my credentials so I can become a member of the Coaches Emeritus Club."
"Where did you get 'em?"
"I wrote to Harry Stansbury."
"That's a fine place to get 'em. That bird is so busy he is liable to send you a history of football instead of credentials."
"No," said Cunningham, "these are all right, they say I am heavy enough to suit 'em."

IMPORTANT GREEK POSITION TAKEN

Three Greek Army Corps Almost Annihilated by Turkish Army.

ATHENS, Sept. 4.—(By the Associated Press.)—The capture by the Turkish nationalists of Uchak, an important position on the Greco-Turkish front in Asia Minor, was confirmed here today. Dispatches to newspapers indicate that Bursa soon may fall into the hands of the Kemalists.

Almost Annihilated.
ADANA, Asia Minor, Sept. 4.—(By the Associated Press.)—Three Greek army corps in the Eski-Shehr sector of the Greco-Turkish front have been dispersed and almost annihilated by the Turkish Nationalists, according to dispatches received here from Ankara, the seat of the Kemal government. The Greeks are retreating in disorder and the Turks have advanced in the Ismid sector to within twelve miles of Bursa.

What will we do on Labor Day? Work, work, work.
We all ought to be bankers.
Or own Ford cars, or something.
Just about the time a fellow gets two nickels in the same pocket, the first of the month is back again.
The Pirates seem to be rather good in St. Louis.
A Mississippi man was married first at 74 years old; married again four years later; he is now 94 years old and has nine children. He ought to go out for football next season.

RUFF STUFF

We were favored last night with a visit from "Huge" Fox. He said he simply dropped in to see if the editor hadn't overlooked something in his writeup last week.
Off hand, we can't think of any thing that was left out.
Unless it was a semicolon.
Water Fills Jug of Whisky—headline. But what did the whisky fill?
Zion City is out with some new bathing rules. The bathing suits must be a complete cover, except that the arms may be bare to the elbows. Well, that's a little better than formerly.
But it won't attract any record crowds to the beaches.
They are selling baseballs with whisky in them over at New York.
Another instance of the lively ball.
Trotky Hopes for German Revolution and Red Rule—Some people have such pleasant ideas.
A red flag never made very good eating, except for a goat.
Dill pickles, pickled onions and pickled watermelon rind offer three legitimate ways of getting pickled in these piping days of prohibition.
A fellow has written to our sport editor saying he would make a good street cleaner. The sport editor treasures this article highly, as he says it refutes the statement that he is good for nothing.
Vote on Wines and Beers to Be Taken—headline. Will they furnish samples?
Ad advertisement reads: "Wanted—two good girls, also one truck driver."
Hold 'em, West Virginia.
Suspected Men Being Watched—headline.
They will please time their movements accordingly.

AFTER THE TAXIS

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OUTBURSTS of EVERETT TRUE

By CONDO
I SEE HERE'S A LITTLE ITEM IN THE PAPER ANNOUNCING THE PRESENCE OF MR. WORTHINGTON. HE'S QUITE FAMOUS NOW, BUT I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS DOING THE COMMONEST KIND OF MANUAL LABOR! VERY ORDINARY, DON'T YOU KNOW!



MANUAL LABOR MEANS WORK WITH THE HANDS, BUT I DON'T SEE WHERE THE DISCOUNT COMES IN! THERE IS DANGER, HOWEVER, OF INJURING THE FINGERS IF YOU LAND TOO HARD ON A BONGHEAD!!!



WASHINGTON NEWS GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 4.—Last week in Congress developed several things of interest to West Virginians. One of them was the fact that the six members of the House of Representatives from West Virginia do not favor the government going into the business of fixing the prices of commodities and enacting an interference with the natural laws of supply and demand.

They were none loath to stand up and voice their objections to the radical principle underlying the Winslow Bill, an administration measure, which should become a law, turns over to the federal government the distribution of the coal supply for the primary purpose of fixing prices by indirectness. They characterized the bill as so socialistic as to delight the most ultra-socialist, and not only un-American, but a departure that was un-Republican from first to last.

The delegation, as stated, voted solidly against the Winslow bill, and all of them were ready to deliver speeches against it, but all of them were not so fortunate as three of the members, who were successful in getting time out of debate allotted to them. The other three will have to be content to see their arguments printed in the Record under leave to print.

The three who got a chance to speak against the bill were Representatives Well Goodknight, Leonard Sidney Echols and Benjamin L. Rosenbloom, the last named on the final day the day was before the House on passage.

Representative Rosenbloom's argument against the bill was a striking bit of unusually clear and forceful logic, and attracted outstanding comment because of its originality. For example: He alone took the position that coal prices are not extortionate if the miner is to get what he deserves to get for the hazardous and hard nature of his employment. "The contention that coal at \$10 or \$12 a ton delivered in the Far West is extortionate and is indicative of profiteering by the industry is ridiculous," he declared.

When the House heard that challenge it sat up startled and bent an attentive ear. "It is my opinion," continued Representative Rosenbloom, "that coal heretofore has been sold too cheap. When you realize that in order to produce coal men take their capital, invest it in one of the most hazardous businesses, and are continually facing the possibility that they will be destroyed by forces over which they have no control. A man who invests in a coal mine knows not at what moment the entire investment may be wiped out. Some unthinking miner might strike a match to light his pipe, ignite gases far below the surface of the earth, and the result of years of toil, the fortunes of many people engaged in the coal-mining industry, together with the lives of many of the men who are engaged in digging coal, may be wiped out in an instant. There can be no insurance against this risk."

"The miner who digs the coal must arise at the break of day, descend deep into the bowels of the earth, hundreds of feet below the surface, and at the bottom of the mine shaft find his way through the ever-present darkness

Buy a New Comb and Brush

A mighty good suggestion. The old comb and brush were good quality and they have lasted a long time, they have given all the service that could be expected. It is time now to consider them unclean and suitable for change. Let us sell you a good comb or brush or both in a size, character, color or style that will please you best. We have a big assortment and you will be pleased with each offering.

CRANE'S Drug Store

(Copyright, 1922)

With the aid of a pit lamp to the face of the vein which he is working, maybe a mile or two or three miles from the foot of the shaft. He finds his way through the darkness, with water dripping from the walls and the roof of the mine, and begins to dig the coal, being constantly alert that the roof of the mine above him does not cave and crush out his life; after the water is over the top of his shoes; after he must lie on his back or side to dig the nuggets which are so essential to commerce and industry. After he has completed a most arduous day under conditions which could well not be made more unfavorable his reward from society is about enough to eat for himself and his dependents, without the possibility of being able to lay aside sufficient for the day which may come when he shall be taken from his place of employment crushed, bruised, or carried home dead to his little family group.

"I contend that any man whose service to society in the production of so essential a commodity is necessary should not be asked to labor for a wage that is less than would guarantee him at the end of 12 or 15 years sufficient to be independent in the remaining years of his life. When the gentlemen who have preceded me have urged legislation to limit the price of coal to \$4 a ton, I believe that a price to the coal operator sufficient to allow him to pay \$4 a ton to the miner alone would not be too high."

The unofficial debate on the bill, overheard in cloak rooms and corridors, began and ended with—"There are more coal consumers than there are coal producers." No better evidence of the extent to which political expediency entered into the consideration of this measure. Many who spoke for it, publicly apologized for it, Mondell, Republican floor leader being a prominent example of this. It was stated many times, but privately, that there were not ten members honestly and sincerely for the bill. That it constituted the entering wedge for retaliatory legislation in the future, was asserted in speeches time and again. Representative Rosenbloom referred to that angle, too. He said: "Should this legislation be enacted, you gentlemen who are advocating it will—some day be

confronted with similar situations. If you undertake to fix the price of coal today when the price of shoes advances, when the price of cotton goods soars, when the price of meat goes to a higher figure, when there is a big demand for wheat—then all of the human necessities, by reason of the law of supply and demand, become inadequate to meet the demand, and the price rises correspondingly, then we will see future sessions of Congress considering similar legislation with regard to each of those commodities. Again I say, such a precedent as contemplated in the bill is essentially dangerous. Need I mention to the gentlemen from Boston that there are more people who wear shoes than produce them; that there are more people who eat meat than produce it; to the gentlemen from Kansas that there are more people who eat flour than produce it, and so on ad infinitum."

While all of this was going on in the House, over in the Senate the fact-finding coal bill, already passed by the House, was being discussed and Senator Sutherland was engaged in a running debate with a half-dozen colleagues from non-coal producing states who favor harnessing the coal industry to the Federal government. When that ended, he delivered a speech favoring the soldiers' bonus and stating the reasons which induced him to vote for it.

West Virginia coal operators and union mine organization officials sent telegrams and letters opposing the coal distribution and price-fixing bill. They stood united on this issue, at least, it is an interesting fact to note.

When answering advertisements, please say you saw it in The West Virginian.

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FAIRMONT, W. VA.
CAPITAL \$200,000.00

J. H. DEITZ CO.

(Formerly Courtneys' Store)

108-110 Main Street

Will be open Wednesday Night September 6th

FROM 7:30 to 10:00 o'clock Wednesday evening we will be delighted to welcome Fairmonters who will favor us by dropping in and inspecting this new store. While it is true that some of our fixtures have been delayed and a few lines of merchandise are not quite complete, yet we will present a very attractive stock of Women's and Children's Garments and Hats for approval of our visitors.

WE cordially invite you to drop in Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 o'clock to view our opening display.